

BISHOPSTOKE PARISH COUNCIL

Electorate 7809

Publication Scheme under the Freedom of Information Act 2000

The Legislation

The purpose of this publication scheme is to provide a means by which the Parish Council can make a significant amount of information available routinely. The scheme ensures that the Council publishes information pro-actively and helps it develop a greater culture of openness and transparency. The Council's key responsibilities are to represent the electorate, to take action within the legal framework and to provide a leadership focus for the community.

Exemptions

Some exemptions will be qualified exemptions and could be subject to a public interest test. Does the public interest outweigh the reasons for keeping the matter in exempt? Examples include matters of commercial interest and legal professional privilege. Other exemptions will be absolute and will not be subject to the public interest test. Examples include information provided in confidence and personal information.

Private meetings and private material

The Council recognises that application of the legislation has the potential to include anything written down or handed out at any meeting, anything recorded privately and anything received by council officers or members in connection with council business.

Request method, multi-requests and right of appeal

Requests for information are to be made in writing, including electronic means, be legible, be capable of subsequent reference, contain the name and address of the requestor and describe clearly the information required. If the Council does not comply with the request within the statutory deadline the requestor can appeal to the Chairman and if not satisfied with the response to the Office of the Information Commissioner. Seventeen or more requests for similar information can be aggregated and treated as a single request giving the advantage that if the estimated time taken to comply with the request(s) exceeds 18 hours the Council may refuse the request (section 12 (1) of the FOIA) or if the time taken does not exceed 18 hours the Council does not have to sort the information into 17 or more different sections.

Response to requests

The Council recognises that good practice requires a prompt acknowledgment giving the information requested or advising whether or not it is available. In either case, the response will not take longer than 20 working days. When a request has been complied with and an identical or substantially similar request is received the Council will not comply a second time unless a reasonable time has elapsed.

Fees and charges

The Council reserves the right to charge a fee to cover its expenses in providing the information requested and details can be found below.

CORE CLASSES OF INFORMATION

1 Council Internal Practice and Procedure

Information	Format in which it is available	Charge for supply (yes/no)
Minutes of Council and committee meetings	A4 sheets, average 7 pages for full Council, 6 for F & GP Committee and 3 for Planning Committee	Yes – 20p per page plus postage or download free from website
Procedural standing orders	A4 sheets – 32 pages including annexes	Yes – £5 per copy
Council's annual report to Parish Annual Assembly	Contained within Minutes of Annual Assembly – average 5 pages	Yes – 20p per page plus postage or download free from website

2 Code of Conduct

Information	Format in which it is available	Charge for supply (yes/no)
Members' declarations of acceptance of office	Kept by the Monitoring Officer at Eastleigh Borough Council	Refer to the Monitoring Officer
Members' register of interests	Kept by the Monitoring Officer at Eastleigh Borough Council	Refer to the Monitoring Officer
Register of Members' interests declared at Meetings	Available to view by prior arrangement at Meetings of the full Parish Council	N/A

3 Periodic Electoral Review

This is information concerning changes to the electoral arrangements for parish councils. It includes recommendations for the creation of new wards, the amendment of existing wards, proposals for the names of new wards and alterations to the number of councillors to be elected to the council.

Information	Format in which it is available	Charge for supply (yes/no)
Information relating to the last Periodic Electoral Review of the Council area.	Available from Eastleigh Borough Council	Refer to Eastleigh Borough Council
Information relating to the latest boundary review of the Council area	Available from Eastleigh Borough Council.	Refer to Eastleigh Borough Council

4 Employment Practice and Procedure

Information	Format in which it is available	Charge for supply (yes/no)
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Terms and conditions of employment	A4 sheets – 3 pages	Yes – 20p per page plus postage
Job descriptions	A4 Sheets – 2 pages	Yes – 20p per page plus postage

5 Planning Documents

Information	Format in which it is available	Charge for supply (yes/no)
Responses to planning applications	Contained within Planning Committee minutes – quote Planning Application number in any enquiry – only supplied as complete sets of minutes – average 3 pages	Yes – 20p per page plus postage or download free from website

6 Audit and Accounts

Information	Format in which it is available	Charge for supply (yes/no)
Annual return form - limited to the last financial year	A4 sheets – 6 pages	Yes – £5 per copy
Annual statutory report by auditor (internal and external) - limited to the last financial year	Contained within the Annual Return – see above	Yes – see above
Receipt/payment books, receipt books of all kinds, bank statement from all accounts - limited to the last financial year	Available to view by prior arrangement at meetings of the Finance & General Purposes Committee	N/A
Precept request - limited to the last financial year	A4 sheet – 1 page	Yes – £1 per copy
VAT records - limited to the last financial year	A4 sheets – number of pages dependent upon number of transactions subject to VAT in the period	Yes – 20p per page plus postage
Financial Standing Orders and regulations	A4 sheets – 9 pages	Yes - £2 per copy
Assets register - includes details of open spaces and play areas owned by the Council.	Contained within full Annual Accounts	Yes - £3 per copy
Financial risk assessments	A4 sheets – 2 pages	Yes - £3 per copy

OPTIONAL DOCUMENTS WITHIN CORE CLASSES

1 Council Internal Practice and Procedure

Information	Format in which it is available	Charge for supply (yes/no)
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Agendas and supporting papers for Council and committee meetings, limited in each case to the forthcoming / immediately preceding meetings	<p>A4 sheets</p> <p>Agendas are posted on Parish notice boards at least 3 clear days before the subject meeting and displayed on website. Also available f.o.c. at subject meetings, or by post on request against payment.</p> <p>Supporting papers available f.o.c. at meetings of the full Council, or by post on request against payment. Number of pages dependent upon matters to be discussed</p>	<p>No – agendas for Committee Meetings and agendas and supporting papers for Council Meetings are available f.o.c. at the subject meeting.</p> <p>Otherwise Yes - £1 for agendas and 20p per page plus postage for supporting papers</p>
Terms of reference for committees	A4 sheets – 4 pages	Yes – £2 per copy

5. Development and Implementation of Policy

Information	Format in which it is available	Charge for supply (yes/no)
Policy statements issued by Council	Contained within Council minutes and available on the website	Yes – 20p per page plus postage
Responses made by Council to consultation papers	Members of the public are requested to specify the subject matter and approximate date of consultation	Yes – 20p per page plus postage
Analysis of responses received to public consultations by the Council	Members of the public are requested to specify the subject matter and approximate date of consultation	Yes – 20p per page plus postage
Village appraisal	Not applicable	N/A
Complaints handling procedure	A4 sheet – 2 pages	20p per page plus postage
Receipt/payment books, receipt books of all kinds, bank statement from all accounts - limited to the last financial year	Available to view by prior arrangement at meetings of the Finance & General Purposes Committee	N/A

6. Byelaws

Play areas and open spaces. Can be downloaded from the website.

7. Council circulars/Newsletters

Information	Format in which it is available	Charge for supply (yes/no)
Newsletter	A3 folded	No charge or download free from website

8. Allotments

The Parish Council owns the allotment sites in Jockey Lane and Manor Farm. Each site has a separate committee which meets regularly and oversees the day to day management of the site. Further information is available from the Parish Council Assistant Clerk or from the website.

9. Burial Ground

The Parish Council owns and manages three Burial Grounds within the Parish. Only one is in current use and further information is available from the Parish Council Assistant Clerk or from the website.

10. Best Value

This encompasses the duty owed by a Council to its local people to provide good quality services at an acceptable cost and to continually improve the delivery of those services across the parish as a whole.

Information	Format in which it is available	Charge for supply (yes/no)
Best Value performance plan	Not applicable	N/A

EXCLUSIONS

Core classes of Information

Employment Procedure and Practice

‘Personal records’ ie appraisals, employee specific salary details, disciplinary records, sickness records and the like by virtue of being personal data as defined under the Data Protection Act 1998.

Planning Documents

Copies of planning consultations, any development plan, structure plan, local plan and rights of way or footpath maps, all of which are available from the local planning officer and/or highway authority and the County Council rights of way officer. Some detailed information is available on the public display map boards located around the Parish.

Audit and Accounts

All commercially sensitive information eg quotations and tenders, loan documentation and any associated insurance policies, is treated as confidential to ensure the whole tender process is fair and to prevent information being released to a third party before the end of the tender

process thus enabling a tender to be undercut or unfairly disadvantage those tendering.

Other classes of information

Allotments

All individual tenancy agreements and rent payment records under both privacy and data protection laws.

Burial Grounds

All documentation relating to individual application and registration under both privacy and data protection laws.

DOCUMENT RETENTION POLICY

Approved Council minutes and important supporting papers are kept indefinitely.

Council Standing Orders are updated as required and previous copies destroyed.

Registers of declarations of interest and Members' attendance records are stored electronically.

Rough notes made at a meeting are destroyed when the minutes of the meeting are adopted.

Electronic mail is only retained either in hard copy or electronically when it is likely to be required for reference purposes in an on-going situation.

Hard copy correspondence is periodically reviewed and that unlikely to be of historical interest is destroyed.

This publication scheme was adopted by Bishopstoke Parish Council at its meeting in November 2008 and amended in April 2010 and February 2014

Clerk to the Council